

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 34 through 64 are pending in this application.

The Office Action rejects claims 34 through 64 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sheehy (U.S. Patent No. 5,653,732). Sheehy fails to disclose or suggest the elements of claims 34 through 64.

Independent claim 34 has the proximal end of the stem having opposing sides with inwardly concave shapes when viewed in a front view. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office Action's assertion that the proximal end of stem (48) in Fig. 4 of Sheehy has opposing sides with inwardly concave shapes when viewed in a front view. It is clear from the front or side view of Fig. 4 of Sheehy, that the proximal end of the Sheehy stem (which adjoins upper segment 42 along third annular ridge 46) has opposing sides with outwardly convex shapes.

Claims 35 through 44 depend from claim 34 and, thus, are also not anticipated by Sheehy.

Independent claim 45 has the base having only two curved portions which are the areola region and the bulbous region. In contrast, Sheehy has a curved upper segment 42, a curved intermediate segment 38 and a curved lower segment 36.

Claims 46 through 56 depend from claim 45 and, thus, are also not anticipated by Sheehy.

Independent claim 57 has the areola region and the proximal end of the stem being connected to form an inwardly smooth

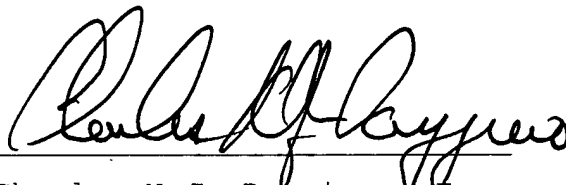
concave surface. It is clear from the front or side view of Fig. 4 of Sheehy, that the proximal end of the Sheehy stem and the upper segment 42 are separated by an outwardly extending third annular ridge 46, and do not form an inwardly smooth concave surface as in claim 57.

Claims 58 through 64 depend from claim 57 and, thus, are also not anticipated by Sheehy.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that all claims present in this application are patentable over the cited prior art. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims. Also, applicant respectfully requests that this application be passed to allowance.

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